

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 112231

15

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:PGOV,PFORMILI, GE, WB, EB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY USG PERSONNEL TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC (GDR)

1. AS A RESULT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR) AND THE OPENING OF THE US EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN, TRAVEL BY US GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL IN AND THROUGH THE GDR IS NOW POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, CERTAIN SPECIAL PROCEDURES STILL MUST BE OBSERVED FOR SUCH TRAVEL BY US TRAVELERS BEARING DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS, ESPECIALLY BY THOSE WISHING TO ENTER OR EXIT WEST BERLIN DURING ANY PORTION OF THEIR TRAVEL. THE DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE THAT CERTAIN OF THESE PROCEDURES MAY BE INCONVENIENT FOR SOME TRAVELERS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE SPECIAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT

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PAGE 02 STATE 112231

CONCERNING BERLIN AND GERMANY. IN PARTICULAR, THIS TRAVEL POLICY IS DESIGNED TO AVOID PRACTICES WHICH COULD IMPLY OFFICIAL USG RECOGNITION OF THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AS AN

INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER, OR OF EAST BERLIN AS A PART OF THE GDR. THE TRAVEL PROCEDURES OUTLINED BELOW HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH OUR BRITISH AND FRENCH ALLIES WHO WILL PROVIDE SIMILAR BUT NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL GUIDELINES TO PERSONNEL OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE GUIDELINES DO NOT REPEAT NOT APPLY TO US CITIZENS UNDERTAKING PRIVATE TRAVEL TO THE GDR ON REGULAR TOURIST US PASSPORTS. THESE PERSONS ARE FREE TO TRAVEL TO THE GDR WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL US RESTRICTIONS. HOWEVER, THE PRECEPTS MUST BE FOLLOWED BY ALL US CITIZENS WHO VISIT THE GDR, EAST BERLIN OR WEST BERLIN ON OFFICIAL OR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, WHETHER SUCH TRAVEL IS FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS OR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE GENERAL GUIDELINES, US PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE US EMBASSY TO THE GDR MUST FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES IN PARAGRAPH SIX WHILE OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE US MISSION BERLIN AND THE US GARRISON IN WEST BERLIN AND IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY MUST FOLLOW THE SPECIALIZED PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN BELOW. THE FULL TEXT OF AGREED ALLIED TRAVEL PAPERS IS BEING PROVIDED TO SELECTED POSTS BY AIRGRAM.

4. ANY UNUSUAL TRAVEL PLANS NOT COVERED BY THESE GUIDELINES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT (EUR/CE) FOR RESOLUTION.

5. PROCEDURES IN EFFECT FOR TRAVEL TO THE GDR BY BEARERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS FOLLOW:

A.) US DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS MAY NOW BE USED FOR TRAVEL TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND US OFFICIAL TRAVELERS MAY ACCEPT GDR VISAS IN THOSE PASSPORTS.

B.) PERSONNEL SHOULD, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, OBTAIN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 112231

GDR VISA PRIOR TO THE START OF THE JOURNEY. THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT COMPELLED TO ACCEPT, EITHER AT EAST BERLIN'S SCHONEFELD AIRPORT OR AT OTHER ENTRY POINTS, A VISA CONTAINING LEGALLY OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE SUCH AS A REFERENCE TO "BERLIN, THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR" (BERLIN, HAUPTSTADT DER DDR), WHICH IS CONTRARY TO ALLIED LEGAL VIEWS. WHEN OBTAINING VISAS FROM A GDR MISSION OVERSEAS, TRAVELERS LIKEWISE SHOULD CHECK THAT THE LANGUAGE IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE ALLIED POSITION THAT NO PART OF BERLIN IS WITHIN THE SOVEREIGN TERRITORY OF THE GDR. SHOULD ANY QUESTIONS OF THIS NATURE ARISE, THEY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT (EUR/CE) FOR RESOLUTION.

C.) TRAVELERS GENERALLY MAY ENTER THE GDR AT ANY INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSING POINT (SEE EXCEPTIONS FOR FRG AND WEST BERLIN BELOW) AND MAY TRAVEL IN THE GDR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THEIR VISA AND GDR REGULATIONS.

D.) TRAVELERS ENTERING THE GDR FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR TRAVEL IN THE GDR OR DIRECTLY TO EAST BERLIN SHOULD USE NORMAL GDR CONTROL POINTS. THEY SHOULD NOT USE SPECIAL TRAFFIC PROCESSING POINTS RESERVED FOR THE US FORCES IN THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN UNLESS THEY ARE TRAVELING TO WEST BERLIN UNDER SPECIFIC ALLIED TRAVEL ORDERS (KNOWN AS "FLAG ORDERS") ARRANGED FOR IN ADVANCE BY US EMBASSY BONN OR THE US MISSION IN WEST BERLIN.

E.) TRAVELERS SHOULD NOT USE GDR VISAS TO CROSS FROM EAST BERLIN INTO WEST BERLIN OR VICE VERSA AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE OR AT ANY OTHER CROSSINGPOINT WITHIN THE CITY BOUNDARIES OF GREATER BERLIN, NOR SHOULD THEY ACCEPT VISAS WHICH SPECIFY ENTRY TO THE GDR AT THESE CROSSING POINTS.

F.) TRAVELERS ARRIVING BY AIR IN WEST BERLIN WHO HAVE GDR VISAS AND WHO WISH TO TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN MUST EXIT WEST BERLIN BY CAR VIA THE DREILINDEN/ DREWITZ BORDER CROSSING POINT AND PROCEED TO EAST BERLIN VIA THE BERLIN RING HIGHWAY. SINCE THIS IS A TIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 STATE 112231

CONSUMING AND INVOLVED TRIP, WHICH CANNOT EASILY BE PERFORMED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AIR TRAVELERS TO EAST BERLIN MAY FIND IT MORE CONVENIENT TO ARRIVE AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT, THE AIR FACILITY SERVING EAST BERLIN, FROM WHERE THEY CAN PROCEED DIRECTLY INTO EAST BERLIN.

G.) TRAVELERS WITH OFFICIAL BUSINESS IN BOTH EAST BERLIN AND WEST BERLIN MUST CONTACT BOTH THE USMISSION IN WEST BERLIN AND THE US EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN IN ADVANCE OF THEIR TRAVEL. GENERALLY SPEAKING, SUCH TRAVELERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ARRIVE IN WEST BERLIN BY AIR AND TO STAY IN WEST BERLIN. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN WEST AND EAST BERLIN WILL BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE TRAVELER, THE US MISSION AND THE US EMBASSY. THE US MISSION IN BERLIN IS LOCATED AT 170 CLAYALLEE, 1 BERLIN 37 (DAHLEM), WEST BERLIN, TELEPHONE 832-4087.

H.) CONSULAR PROTECTION FOR US CITIZENS TRAVELING IN EAST BERLIN OR THE GDR ON GDR VISAS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE US EMBASSY TO THE GDR LOCATED AT SCHADOWSTRASSE 6,

108 BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, TELEPHONE 220-2741.

6. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE US EMBASSY TO THE GDR ON PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY DUTY SHOULD CAREFULLY OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

A.) PERSONNEL IN THIS CATEGORY AS IN ALL OTHER CATEGORIES SHOULD NOT USE GDR VISAS TO ENTER EAST BERLIN FROM WEST BERLIN AND SHOULD AVOID HAVING THEIR PASSPORTS STAMPED AT CROSSING POINTS BETWEEN THE WESTERN SECTORS AND THE EASTERN SECTOR OF THE CITY. AT SECTOR BOUNDARY CROSSING POINTS, US PERSONNEL MAY USE EITHER THEIR GDR DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARDS OR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS PROVIDED THERE ALREADY IS AN ENTRY STAMP ISSUED AT DREWITZ OR ANY OTHER CROSSING POINT INTO THE GDR.

B.) PERSONNEL ARRIVING BY AIR IN WEST BERLIN ENROUTE TO POST IN EAST BERLIN SHOULD AVOID USING THEIR GDR VISA TO ENTER EAST BERLIN FROM WEST BERLIN. THEY SHOULD ENTER EAST BERLIN BY TRAVELLING BY EMBASSY CAR VIA DREILINDEN, ENTERING THE GDR AT DREWITZ AND THEN PROCEEDING TO EAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 05 STATE 112231

BERLIN BY THE BERLIN RING HIGHWAY.

C.) PERSONNEL IN THIS CATEGORY TRAVELLING FROM THE FRG OR OTHER STATES IN OR THROUGH THE GDR SHOULD DO SO UNDER NORMAL GDR CONTROLS. THEY SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO USE BERLIN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ("FLAG ORDERS") OR PASS THROUGH ALLIED OR SOVIET CHECKPOINTS, NOR SHOULD THEY TRAVEL ON ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS THROUGH THE GDR.

D.) PERSONNEL PLANNING TO ARRIVE BY AIR AT SCHOENEFELD SHOULD OBTAIN A GDR VISA PRIOR TO THE START OF THE JOURNEY, FOR THE REASONS SET FORTH IN PARA 4B ABOVE.

7. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE US MISSION AND GARRISON IN WEST BERLIN OR IN THE FRG SHOULD CAREFULLY OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

A.) PERSONNEL IN THIS CATEGORY MUST CONTINUE TO TRAVEL BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND THE FRG ONLY BY AIR, VIA THE BERLIN-HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN, OR BY ALLIED MILITARY TRAIN BEARING BERLIN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ("FLAG ORDERS") AND PASSING THROUGH THE ALLIED AND SOVIET CHECKPOINTS. IF THEY TRAVEL BY AIR, THEY SHOULD USE ONLY WEST BERLIN AIRPORTS. THEY SHOULD NOT ACCEPT GDR CONTROL ON THESE ROUTES. BY USING MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARDS IN CONNECTION WITH FLAG ORDERS, IT SHOULD GENERALLY BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID USING PASSPORTS WHICH CONTAIN VALID GDR VISAS ON THE ACCESS ROUTES. PERSONNEL SHOULD TRAVEL WITHIN GREATER

BERLIN UNDER EXISTING QUADRIpartite PROCEDURES WHICH REQUIRE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SUBMISSION TO GDR CONTROLS IN EAST BERLIN OR AT THE CROSSING POINTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN.

B.) SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE CHIEF OF MISSION OR COMMANDING OFFICER, PERSONNEL MAY TRAVEL WITHIN THE GDR AND THROUGH THE GDR TO POLAND, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR FROM THE FRG TO GDR DESTINATIONS OTHER THAN BERLIN (WEST OR EAST) FOR SUCH TRAVEL THEY CAN ACCEPT GDR VISAS. THEY MAY NOT USE GDR VISAS FOR ENTRY FROM WEST BERLIN TO EAST BERLIN ENROUTE TO THE GDR VIA EAST BERLIN; THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD ONLY LEAVE BERLIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 06 STATE 112231

FROM THE WESTERN SECTORS AND ENTER BERLIN INTO THE WESTERN SECTORS, E.G. BY USING THE HEERSTRASSE-STAAKEN CROSSING POINT. THEY SHOULD AVOID, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TRAVEL ON THE HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN WITH GDR DOCUMENTATION IN VEHICLES WITH ALLIED REGISTRATION PLATES.

C.) CONSULAR PROTECTION FOR US MISSION PERSONNEL OR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ON ASSIGNMENT TO THE FRG TRAVELING ON GDR VISAS IN THE GDR SHOULD NORMALLY BE PROVIDED BY THE US EMBASSY TO THE GDR, SUBJECT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE IN QUESTION.

D.) PERSONNEL ON OFFICIAL DUTY IN GREATER BERLIN OR TRAVELLING ON THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN UNDER MILITARY AUSPICES (USING "FLAG ORDERS") WHO HAVE ACCIDENTS OR OTHERWISE ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES SHOULD REQUEST ANY NECESSARY ASSISTANCE OR PROTECTION BY THE US MISSION IN WEST BERLIN OR BY OTHER EXISTING PROCEDURES (E.G. BY THE US MILITARY LIAISON MISSION). FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES ARE FURNISHED BY US MILITARY AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO ENTRY ON THE AUTOBAHN.
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